

LEHI COMMERCIAL AND SAVINGS BANK

LEHI HOSPITAL

Constructed: 1891

Address: 206 East State

Present owner: Max Chapman

Prior to the 1891 opening of the Lehi Sugar Factory, local farmers took their products to the People's Co-op, where they would be given a due bill for the value of the goods. This script could then be exchanged for provisions, clothing, or merchandise--but only at the Co-op's two stores. No money changed hands during these transactions.

After the sugar factory was completed, farmers took their beet crop to the factory and received money for it. Cash purchases became commonplace for the first time in Lehi. Responding to the necessity for a bank, several local and Salt Lake City investors established the Lehi Commercial and Savings Bank in June of 1891, with a capitalization of \$50,000.

The bank opened its doors in the People's Co-op on July 16th, though this was only a temporary measure. Construction began on a large two-story brick structure on the former site of the originally Co-op building at 206 East State.

In the fall of 1906, American Fork businessman James H. Clarke and others canvassed that town to raise money and create enthusiasm for establishing a bank in the building just completed by the American fork Co-op. More than fifty "monied men" of the town purchased stock in the new venture.

The Lehi Commercial & Savings Bank, with \$350,000 worth of business on their 1906 books, had a substantial clientele in American Fork and wished to join with this new venture. So the directors of the Lehi institution submitted a proposition to the American fork investors which promised to deliver half the capital stock of the Lehi bank at a price of \$130 per share.

The A.F. group agreed to the terms and the articles of the bank were amended, changing the name of the organization (effective 1 November 1906), to

the Utah Banking Company. Thomas R. Cutler remained the bank's president and his son-in-law, John Y. Smith became the Lehi cashier.

Winds of financial discontent began to blow across America in 1907, causing the ultimate demise of the bank in early 1911. It re-opened under new management the following year, but continued to have difficulties. The institution was reorganized under the name People's Bank of Lehi. In 1921, however, the bank's operations were suspended by the state banking examiner. The building was purchased by N.O. Malan in November 1923. He operated a funeral parlor and automotive repair service on the main floor for two years.

In addition to being a bank, a hospital, a funeral parlor, and a garage, the building was also home to nearly a dozen other businesses. These included Utah Sugar Company offices (1891-92, 1895-97), Lehi Leaching Works (1892), Deseret Telegraph Company (1893), Mosiah Evans--Notary Public (1894), A.O.U.W. Lodge Room (1895), A.J. Evans--attorney (1905), Lehi Commercial Club (1905-11), Union Pacific Offices (1973), Ray Baldwin Photography (1975), and Studio Five (1986-87).

The facility also had a large ballroom on the main floor where scores of social functions were held in earlier days. The Lehi Fourth Ward met in the building for years while their chapel was being completed. In 1917, and again in 1919, a serious classroom shortage hit Lehi, and an upstairs room of the bank building was used as a classroom.

In 1925 Dr. Fred Worlton purchased the building and remodeled it into a hospital. After the doctor's untimely death, the building was purchased by Dr. Elmo Eddington. Despite the financial difficulties of the 1930's, Dr. Eddington desired an upgrading of the hospital. Federal grants required that a building be owned by a municipality before awarding WPA funds. Accordingly Dr. Eddington deeded the Lehi Hospital to the city in 1937, after which a \$14,000 grant allowed the facility to be remodeled into an eighteen-bed hospital. The facility provided uninterrupted service to the community until 1967, when its doors were closed. Since then the building has principally been used as a one-unit apartment.